

In defense of Kenwood Corporation's petition for relaxation of the rule allocating frequencies for auxiliary station operation, I would like to address some of the points of objection raised in the previously filed comments.

It is repeatedly argued that the 2 meter band is presently overcrowded in many areas, and that allowing duplex auxiliary remote control stations to operate in the simplex frequencies would crowd it even more, leading inevitably to increased incidence of interference, willful as well as unintentional. I would agree 2 meters is crowded. It is a very popular band for several reasons. The advent of no-code technician privileges in the early nineties, ready availability of affordable and portable 2m FM transceivers, and rapid proliferation of repeaters are just a few of the factors that led to the current situation: there are many stations on the air on 2meters at any given time. That's the beauty of a crowded band: it increases the probability of making radio contact between stations.

I suggest, however, that the overall reason for the popularity of the band is its usefulness. It is presumably its optimal usefulness as a band for remote control HF operations by Kenwood's already available computer memory-equipped VHF/UHF transceivers that made it a natural choice for that proposed purpose. The range capability of 2meters is certainly what makes it the band-of-choice for linked repeater systems and APRS, while its line-of-sight propagation characteristics limit to a great degree the potential for widespread interference on simplex frequencies. While localized interference is certainly annoying as well as the antithesis of good operating practice, probably no band lends itself more easily to detection of the interference source through the use of radio direction finding gear and techniques.

It has been argued that the Kenwood Corporation harbors a vested interest in the proposed rule change. They have a product which they have marketed to the amateur community called Sky Command II which, in order to become legally operational, will require the support of that community in order to effect a change in the rules regarding its operation. That change involves marketing a concept as well as the gear. Kenwood's contention is that the amateur community is generally worthy of trust and ready for progress toward further relaxation of the governmental regulatory environment that encourages the independent self-regulation of operating practices. In continuing to petition for this rule change, Kenwood seeks to

make a change in the mindset of the community of operators to which the FCC in turn looks for information, consensus, and for a sense of willingness to regulate their own. Kenwood has taken a stance that rises above what has been derided as merely crass pandering to our admittedly flourishing consumerism. They remind us that in the world of ham radio, amateurs have always been ready to experiment, to change, and to accommodate new modes of operation, while maintaining a tradition of mutual courtesy and self-discipline.

Sincerely,  
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